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Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Soundings

Vol. 26, Issue 4 April 2010

Spring Bishop's Convo—Date Change

"Love as a Political-Ecological Vocation" by Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda

Please join other synod rostered leaders from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, (3030 Bellevue Way Northeast, www.slukes.org) for a day of education, worship, collegiality and delicious food.

Our presenter for this one-day convocation is Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda. Moe-Lobeda is an Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, Theology and Religious Studies at Seattle University.

Her teaching and research interests include Liberation theologies, Feminist ethics, theory, and theology, Earth ethics /ecological ethics, Public theology, Method in theological ethics, Economic globalization and Moral agency.

Registration and payment deadline is Thursday, April 15 (lunch is included): $25 for active rostered, $20 for retired and interns, $30 at the door.

Your registration is your check mailed to and made payable to: NW Washington Synod a 5519 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103.

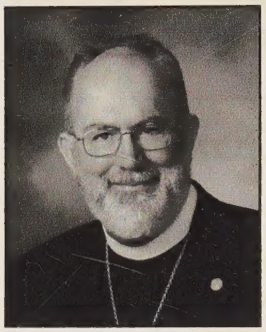
For more information about Cynthia Moe-Lobeda please visit Seattle University's website at: www.seattleu.edu/artsci/environmental/Default.aspx?id=2556.

Editor's Note: A flyer and a registration form are available on the synod's website at: www.lutheransnw.org/leadership/convo.

A Word From The Bishop

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul."

3 John 1:2 NRSV



Several years ago the ELCA and the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod and their respective health insurance plans produced the "wellness wheel" as part of their emphasis on healthy leaders. The Board of Pensions is actively seeking to make wellness part of our thinking. How we care for our physical health, mental health and spiritual health is part of our life together.

For the past two years the health plan from the Board of Pensions has challenged the synods and the units of this church to take the Health Risk Assessment produced by the Mayo Clinic. **If** 65% of the plan participants in the Northwest Washington Synod were to take this assessment by April 1, there will be a 2% reduction in the premium costs to the congregation or sponsoring agencies. Across the ELCA this would be a $2 million savings in these difficult economic times. There are also individual dollars that each plan participant will earn for taking the assessment.

I am confused as to why the Northwest Washington Synod congregations have not been able to receive this reduction in the past two years. I want to encourage those of you covered by this plan to take this assessment by the end of March. Several of our congregations have experienced drops in their incomes over the past years. This would be a small but significant reduction in expenses that only requires taking a survey.

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A Word From The Bishop

Some leaders have not taken this survey because they do not have current medical data that will be requested on the survey. I would encourage you to have a physical, but you can still take the survey with old data. The results will encourage you to have a physical. That is part of taking wellness seriously.

Just as you hear me remind you to file your annual reports to the Bishop and your annual parochial report, now you hear me reminding you to take the health risk assessment. The first two reports give us a record and a check in on the health of your ministry. The risk assessment gives you some good feedback and gives the potential of financial savings to your congregation and financial support toward meeting your medical deductible. Now is the time to log on and take the assessment. It will be good for you.

Editor's Note: Visit www.elcabop.org to access the Health Risk Assessment.

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office@lutheransnw.org; www.lutheransnw.org
Deadline for copy of the May/June 2010 issue of Soundings is Wednesday, April 7. The current issue, and archived issues, can be found on the synod's website.

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Now More Than One

by Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator

Help from the ELCA Disaster Relief and other agencies continues to help people in Haiti and other countries.

In recent weeks an 8.8 magnitude earthquake hit Chile. Lutheran Disaster Relief, Lutheran World Relief, the Lutheran World Federation and the ELCA's other partners are there. In fact, we and our partners were there even before the earthquakes hit.

I visited the websites of the ELCA Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to see where we are helping:

- We are responding to earthquakes and a cyclone that hit Malawi in November and December. More than 16,000 lost their homes, many died and many more are injured. We are there.
- We are in the Philippines because Typhoon Mirinae hit the island of Luzon on October 31, causing more flooding to areas still recovering from the effects of Typhoons Ketsana and Parma which struck on September 26 and October 3 respectively. We are there.
- We are in East Africa as they are experiencing a drought that has caused successive crop failures and depletion of livestock, creating a food crisis. Countries affected are Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania. We are there.

For the first time, the ELCA Youth Gathering will be going back to New Orleans for the 2012 Youth Gathering. In 2009 more than 37,000 youth showed in New Orleans to help rebuild the city. They finished their projects, but the youth also made a human connection, they learned how people were able to overcome anxiety with unwavering faith. There is work that still needs to be done in New Orleans. So the youth of the ELCA are headed back.

For information about any of the above mentioned disasters, please visit www.elca.org and scroll down to the bottom of the page. Click on Global Mission. For information about Youth Gatherings. Please click on Vocation and Education.

2010 ELCA Ecumenical Journey

By Dr. Rocky Piro, Chair, Ecumenical Commission

repiro@aol.com

The 2010 Ecumenical Journey of the ELCA was an apostolic journey as much as it was an ecumenical journey. Indeed, it provided an opportunity to for us to connect with those Christian brothers and sisters with whom we share the apostolic faith – fellow Christians who share with us the apostolic charge to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to a world very much in need of healing.

We were fortunate in Rome to be able to visit sites dedicated to the ministry and witness of saints Peter, Paul, and Bartholomew.

In a visit to the catacombs, our hosts prepared a place where we could celebrate Holy Communion in a deep room where so many witnesses to the faith had been laid to rest. In Istanbul we traveled by ferry to an Orthodox seminary that has been closed by the Turkish government for nearly 40 years, but is faithfully maintained by two spirited priests who are full of hope that the doors of the school will soon be open again to train future generations in the faith handed down to us by the apostles.

The first ferry stop on the way was a suburban neighborhood in Istanbul called Kadikoy, which in former times was knows as the town of Chalcedon, the site of that great Council that wrestled with the controversy of its day regarding the humanity and divinity of Jesus. Indeed this was an apostolic journey.

Editor's Note: The full article is available on the Ecumenical Page on the Synod website at: www.lutheransnw.org/committees/ec. Photos are available at: http://photos.elca.org/Ecumenical-Journey-Complete

Important Dates

2010 Synod Assembly

The 2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will take place May 14 and 15 at the Comcast Arena in Everett.

A link to the resolution and nomination forms is located on the homepage under Spotlight.

On-line registration is now live. Deadline for registering on-line is May 6. You are encouraged to register on-line to avoid delays and long lines at the Assembly. Display forms need to be received by April 14.

This year the Northwest Washington Synod has only mailed one piece of information to congregations. As additional information becomes available it will be posted on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2010/.

At the Comcast Arena voting members will receive a notebook with all the necessary materials.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Amy Oden. Dr. Oden is Dean and Professor of History of Christianity at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. In pursuing her interests in the history of Christianity and hospitality, she has recently finished a book project entitled God's *Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World.*

Our Churchwide Representative is the Rev. Ruben Duran, Director for New Congregational Development in the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit of the ELCA.

LPPO Update

by David Coombs, Seminary Intern

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206-464-4133;
www.lppowa.org.

The 2010 Washington State legislative session ended on Thursday, March 11, with our state having dealt with a deficit of nearly 2.8 billion dollars, a gap requiring drastic cuts in spending to balance the budget.

Over the course of the session, Legislators had to decide how much revenue they were willing to raise to mitigate these cuts to vital programs and services, such as the Basic Health Plan, General Assistance – Unemployable, and the Housing Trust Fund.

LPPO and our partner organizations, including the Rebuilding Our Economic Future Coalition, worked hard to let legislators know that cuts have a very real impact on the most vulnerable in our state—our neighbors in need. We advocated for raising substantial revenue to protect these programs through closing tax loopholes, increasing 'sin' taxes, and finding other sources of revenue. In the end, the legislature did raise revenue, but many programs were subject to significant cuts.

Although battling cuts made for a tough session, Interfaith Advocacy Day was a great beacon of fellowship and advocacy witness. On February 16 more than 200 advocates from around Washington gathered at the State Capitol in Olympia. The day was a great success as people of faith worshiped together, heard from experts about policy and budget issues, were addressed by Gov. Chris Gregoire, and met with their elected representatives.

"Supporting Revenue to Protect Services" was the day's slogan as attendees advocated for the new revenue necessary to prevent an all cuts budget. Gov. Gregoire urged the gathering to help legislators put a human face on services at risk, such as the Basic Health Plan and Apple Health. A big "Thank You!" to the religious partners, organizations, and advocates who made Interfaith Advocacy Day 2010 possible.

WELCA Events
For Our Region

Introduction of ELCA Women's Bible Study will be held August 21 at Silverdale Lutheran Church in Silverdale. The theme is: *The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity*. Once again WELCA is delighted to co-sponsor this event that brings the author/ authors to our area. (Southwestern Washington Synodical Women started this tradition and we join them in presenting an overview of the year's bible study found in the Lutheran Woman Today magazine.)

It is written by The Revs. Linda and Jensen Seyenkulo. They met as seminarians in MN, married and moved to Jensen's home in Liberia. War drove the couple back to the U.S. settling in Chicago. Parents of three teenagers, they have served the church as parish pastors, educators and administrators. Linda is currently pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Park Forest, IL, and Jensen is Dir. for Rostered and Authorized Ministries in the ELCA's churchwide Vocation and Education unit.

The cost and time of the event has not been announced yet. For more information on the bible study go to http://www.lutheranwomantoday.org/ Scroll down to the bible study. Contact person for this event is carolfossum@comcast.net.

Mark Your Calendar For Two Upcoming Events

- The Northwest Washington Synod Women's Retreat will be held on Oct. 29 and 30 at the Warm Beach Conference Center. More information will be available soon.
- The Triennial Gathering with the theme *Renew, Respond, Rejoice* will be held from July 14-17, 2011, in Spokane. This event brings women from all over the world. Hilde Glore is the coordinator. Please direct all questions to hilde2979@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly
The 2010 Synod Assembly will take place on Friday, May 14, and Saturday, May 15, at the Comcast Arena in Everett. Please see Bishop Boerger's article beginning on page 2 and an Assembly article on page 6.

Fine Arts At Faith Lutheran in Redmond
At 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 21, Susan Telford, flutist; and Juliet Stratton, harpist, will play at Faith Lutheran in Redmond. Their program will feature compositions by American composer Vincent Persichetti and Alan Hovhaness. Susan and Juliet are graduates of Redmond and Interlake High Schools.

Luther Memorial Celebrates Anniversary
On March 23rd Luther Memorial in Seattle will celebrate 58 years of ministry. And, during Lent, the congregation has had a labyrinth installed in their Fireside Room.

63-Voice Choir At Oak Harbor Lutheran in Oak Harbor
The University of Minnesota, Morris Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Hodgson, will perform at Oak Harbor Lutheran in Oak Harbor at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 20. This concert is part of the choir's 2010 West Coast Concert Tour.

Volunteer Chaplain At Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland
Retired former Northlake Lutheran in Kenmore pastor, LeRoy Anenson, recently marked his 20th year as Volunteer Chaplain at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland.

Kent Lutheran, A Rally Center
Kent Lutheran in Kent has agreed to be a Rally Center during an emergency. A Rally Center is where people meet to be evacuated (i.e. the Green River floods). The people would walk/drive to Kent Lutheran to get on a bus. The congregation held a training event in early February. Volunteers do not need to be members of the congregation.

Here 'n There

- **The Chrism Mass** is scheduled for 11 am on Tuesday, March 31st at Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle. The service is designed for pastors, for renewal and support as you go into Holy Week, but congregational members are also welcomed. There will be a light lunch after the service. Please contact the Rev. Bev Piro at Phinney if you plan to attend at bpiro@prlc.org.
- **University Lutheran in Seattle** will participate in an Ecumenical Parish Worship Service on Good Friday. The service will be held at noon on Friday, April 2, at the University Christian Church. Representatives from seven parishes in the University District each will reflect upon one of the seven words of Jesus.
- **Lord of Life Lutheran in Renton, Lakeridge Lutheran in Seattle and Cross and Crown Lutheran in Renton** are teaming up together to support Area Renton Interfaith Shelter Endeavor (ARISE), a year-round, over-night shelter for single men 18 and older. Men who stay in the shelter are provided with case management services as well many other services that they need.
- **Our Redeemer's Lutheran in Ballard** participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. They raised $517.75 for the Ballard Food Bank. The Souper Bowl of Caring's website says that $9,449,084 has been generated in 2010 (11,428 groups reporting).
- Members of **Faith Lutheran in Redmond** are participating with the Good Gifts to raise $2,500 in order to dig, drill and install a well of clean water. They are working through ELCA Global Missions and Lutheran World Relief (LWR). They have already raised more than $1,100 towards their ministry.
- Members of **Bethlehem Lutheran in Marysville** provided meals for the Salvation Army's Soup Kitchen

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on February 10 and 17.

Here 'n There

- **Members at Peace Lutheran in Silvana** held Hunger Strike 2010. Youth and adults volunteered at the homes of three members where they did everything from splitting and stacking wood to clearing brush. They also picked up enough trash to fill two dumpsters. So far they have gathered 2,564 pounds of non-perishable food. They were able to do this while fasting for 30 hours. Congratulations!
- **The Lutheran Church in the San Juans** has made a major change. Their Friday Harbor Branch has moved from St. Francis Catholic Church, where they have worshipped for 28 years, to St. David's Episcopal Church. Worship times at Friday Harbor and Lopez Island have also changed.
- During Lent, **Light of the Cross in Bothell** has been holding dramas during their Lenten worship times on Wednesday evenings. Afterward they hold a discussion time to explore each drama on a new level.
- **First Lutheran in Bothell** had a standing room only crowd for their 2010 Youth Auction. The auction raised more than $15,600 for youth ministries. More than 40 creatively decorated cakes and confections were auctioned, adding to the fun and spirit of the event. A Western Buffet was organized and prepared by a family member, with lots of volunteers from youth and adults.
- **Kent Lutheran in Kent** is preparing Easter Baskets for the families of the Kent Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). The goal is that each basket will include items for an Easter Dinner for one family.
- **Faith Lutheran in Redmond** is collecting items for the Eastside Baby Corner (EBC) in Issaquah. EBC is a

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Within Our Family

We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

† **The Rev. John Ericksen** and his wife, Marita

† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

† **The Rev. Mikkel Hustad,** St. Peter, Clinton

† **Richard Bridges**, former member of Synod Council

† **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda

We Pray For:

† The family of **Jane Rieke,** age 88, passed away on March 7 in Seattle. Jane was the mother of **Paul Rieke, synod attorney; Jan Cunningham, Seattle attorney; and David Brauer-Rieke, bishop of the Oregon Synod.** Jane was a long-time member of Faith Lutheran Church in Seattle. The memorial service was held on March 13 at Faith Lutheran in Seattle. Cards may be sent to: Paul Rieke, Law Offices of Laurin S. Schweet, 2955 80th Avenue S.E., Suite 102, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

† **The family of the Rev. Chauncey Christofferson (ret.)** The Rev. Chauncey Christofferson returned to Josephine Sunset Home on Friday and died there peacfully on February 27. A service was held for him at Josephine on March 2, with a larger service at Bethlehem Lutheran in Marysville on March 3. Chauncey was 98 years old. He is survived by his wife Thelma. Cards may be sent to: Thelma Christofferson, Josephine Suites, 9901 - 272nd Place NW, Stanwood, WA 98292.

Prayers of Celebration:

† **Franziska Jean was born to Kate and Scott Lindberg** on February 18. She is the granddaughter of **the Rev.**

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Within Our Family

Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop. Mormor Jan spent time with her new granddaugher in mid-February. Cards may be sent to: Jan Nesse, Northwest Washington Synod,5519 Phinney Ave N,Seattle WA 98103

† At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting**, we pray for our pastors, congregations and members. We pray for our companion synods. We continue to pray for those in Haiti and Chile: those who have been injured, those who have lost loved ones and those who are trying to provide aid. We pray for all those we name in our hearts. We pray for Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, and all countries in turmoil. We pray for our country and the world during the continued financial crisis. We pray for peace!

News and Notes

- On February 22, **the Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.) observed his 100th birthday.** A resident of Columbia Lutheran Home in Seattle, the Rev. Stoa received cards and notes of celebration marking this major milestone in his life. Along with his 100th birthday, 2010 will also be the 76th year of his ministry--rare indeed! To reach him with your best wishes, please write to him at: The Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.), Columbia Lutheran Home, 4700 Phinney Ave North, Seattle, WA 98103.
- **Mary Pat Lorente, Parish Administrator at Salem Lutheran in Mount Vernon,** reports that her mom, Pat Call, was a Women's Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) during World War II. In 2009, President Obama signed a bill, passed by both houses, awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to these pioneering women. On March 10, and at 90 years old, Pat travelled to Washington DC to receive her medal in a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. Congratulations!

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Resignations		
Shannon Anderson	Central, Seattle	2/21/2010
Joel Ingebritson	Bethlehem, Seattle	5/31/2010
Martin Taylor	Roster of the ELCA	3/31/2010
Mitch Watney	Grace, Des Moines	2/21/2010
Calls Accepted		
Mitch Watney	Metro DC Synod	2/22/2010
Deaths		
Chauncey Christofferson	Josephine Sunset Home	2/27/2010
Retirements		
Jean Barrington	Trinity Community, Point Roberts	1/31/2010
Sarah France	Morning Star, Monroe	2/28/2010
Troy Faith Ward, Diaconal Minister	Josephine Sunset Home, Mount Vernon	3/31/2010
Transfers In/Out of Synod		
Mitch Watney	to Metro DC Synod	3/7/2010

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Here 'n There

non-profit organization working to improve the lives of thousands of children in East King County. They work directly with a network of 160 family assistance agencies to provide essential children's and maternity items, free of charge to the families in need.

- **First Lutheran in Mount Vernon** was thanked by the ELCA Barnyard Program. The Sunday School donated $500 to purchase a cow for a family in need. And, the congregation is now on Facebook.
- **Our Saviour's Lutheran in Stanwood** has a new website. The address is: www.stanwoodoslc.org.

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Bellevue, Saint Andrew's	A/SP	P	Jim McEachran, Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	I	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	I	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	I	Michael Swain, Interim
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	TR	John O'Neal, Pastor
Ferndale, Christ	PR	TR	Christen Anderson, Interim
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	PR	I	Martha Myers, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir Conway	PR	TR	Paul D. Anderson, Interim
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	I	Linda Larson, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Point Roberts, Trinity	PR	TR	Supply
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	TR	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Central	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Seattle, Faith	PR	TR	Red Burchfield, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process